Volume 3, Number 4 July/August 1994

Freedom Watch

Citizens Project

CFV: Behind Closed Doors

In May, Colorado for Family Values (CFV) sponsored a closed-door, invitation-only conference for nearly 40 national organizations committed to "roll[ing] back the militant gay agenda." If audio-taped portions of the proceedings are any indication, once the cameras are gone, anti-gay forces emphasize very different themes than those touted in public.

A May 19 *Washington Times* article described CFV's recent conference in Colorado Springs as "two days of top-secret meetings." Conference tapes and internal documents obtained by *Citizens Project* spell out why participants wanted to meet unobserved. The conference, held May 16th through the 18th at the Navigators' Glen Eyre Conference Center, resulted in an eight-page blueprint for future action. This blueprint, according to post-conference summary materials, outlines a national plan for collecting and sharing data on gay-supportive office holders and activists, waging mass media blitzes, and adopting tactics from the now publicized Project Spotlight (see sidebar, page 3).

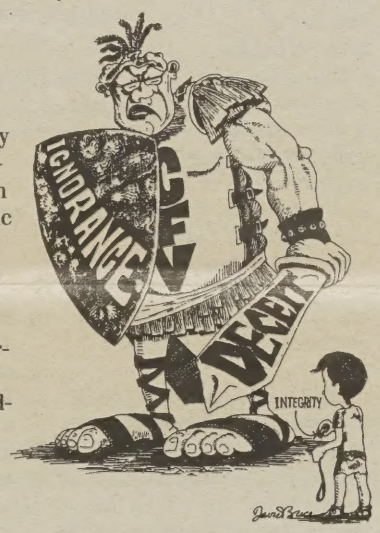
Speakers emphasized the importance of the next few years–a period characterized by one participant as part of a full-blown revolution against "domestic enemies."

> **"I feel that there is not a more important meeting being held in these United States as is being held here these next two days. If we lose this battle, there are no more moral absolutes left for this nation."**
>
> ***Will Perkins, Colorado for Family Values***

Letting their guard down

The list of participants and presenters included some of the most prominent organizations and individuals ever to rally around the anti-gay flagpole.

With organizational superstars like Focus on the Family, Concerned Women for America, Christian Coalition, Family Research Council, Traditional Values Coalition, Eagle Forum and the American Family Association, it's no surprise that CFV conducted the meeting in near-perfect secrecy.



According to CFV Executive Director Kevin Tebedo, the total media blackout (with the exception of the *Washington Times*, a paper described as having been "good to this issue and to CFV") was designed to encourage participants to speak "freely and openly" about their mutual objectives. Nationally recognized speakers did just that, waxing candidly about the successes and failures of the past few years.

Anti-gay heavyweights included Paul Cameron, a researcher whose vicious work about gays and lesbians prompted his expulsion from the American Psychological Association; Peter LaBarbera, creator of the now notorious "Gay Agenda" video; Ron Ray, a lawyer, reserve Colonel in the Marines and a former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense who authored *Military*

[Continued on Page 2]

Citizens Project
P.O. Box 2085
Colorado Springs, CO 80901

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Colo. Spgs., CO
Permit No. 463

A Primary Primer

Primary elections are coming up on August 9th, and many people are confused about what is at stake, why they should be concerned and whether they should vote.

Primary elections are the second step of a three-step process which determines who represents us in our government. The first step was the caucus/assembly last April, where each party selected candidates for the primary ballot.

Unfortunately, many people chose not to participate in the caucus/assembly process. Now, the choices of candidates have been dramatically reduced, and in some races, there is no choice left at all. Where there is a choice, this primary offers particularly significant differences between some of the candidates–differences that warrant both your attention and your vote.

How can you be an effective voter in the primary?

First, recognize that you can only vote in one party's primary. You must vote in the primary of the party in which you are registered. If you are a registered Republican, you will vote in the Republican primary and choose among the Republican candidates for office. Ditto for Democrats. If you are "independent," you are really registered as Unaffiliated. You are the critical voter in many races, because you may vote in either party primary by merely "declaring" your party preference at the polling place. No prior action is required, just show up and vote.

If you choose to change your party affiliation to participate in the other party's primary, you must act before July 15th to be eligible to vote in the August 9th primary. (Remember, Unaffiliated voters can merely walk into the polling place and declare a party, but they too must be registered as Unaffiliated by July 15th.)

How would you change party registration and why would you want to?

First, how do you change your registration? You may change your party at any of the voter registration locations such as the El Paso County election office in Centennial Hall (200 South Cascade) or any drivers license facility. You may also change your party by mailing a request for change to the county clerk (at 200 S. Cascade, Colorado Springs, CO 80903), giving your name, address, date of birth and stating your intention to change parties. Be sure to include your signature. The request must be received by July 15th.

Now, why would you want to change from your party of choice? Take a look at the ballots of both parties. In many races, there may be only one candidate from the party running for each office.

Contested primary races, on the other hand, offer choices of which you may want to be a part. If you feel

[Continued on Page 3]

News Briefs

Religious patriotism in Florida

Lake County, Florida elected a majority of militant conservative Christians to its school board two years ago. The results have been dramatic: after cutting the district's Head Start program (so mothers would stay home with their children) and making the sex education curriculum abstinence-only, the new board majority voted to require teachers to promote the view that American culture is "unquestionably superior" to all other foreign and historic cultures. The school board's rationale as stated by one board member: "Our form of government is superior to other nations because it has survived when others have fallen." Supporters of the policy also suggested that it would help students be more enthusiastic if they ever went to war.

The vote came in response to a Florida state law on multicultural education, which promoted instruction about other cultures to foster understanding and "eliminate personal and national ethnocentrism." This made some conservatives mad. It's simply not Christian, said noted commentator Pat Buchanan: "Of course, Western culture, of which American culture is a part, is superior. The religion of the West, and of most Americans, is Christianity."

Buchanan charged that those offended by Lake County's new "superiority" policy are the ones responsible for starting the cultural war there. "When secularists teach that other cultures rooted in other beliefs are equal, they are inculcating in the children of Christian parents ideas those parents believe to be falsehoods...To Bible believing Christians..this is cultural relativism."

What's next? The school board is now fighting a lawsuit initiated by teachers and parents concerned about the effect this new "America First" policy will have on students. Nonetheless, Lake County's school board continues forward on its other agenda. The board's chairwoman has now proposed teaching creationism in the school science curriculum.

Multicultural books opposed

A New York school board member wants to ban books from school libraries because they prevent students from being "proud to be Americans." The school board member, Frank Borzelliere, would ban a biography of Martin Luther King, Jr., a book about a Chinese girl's attempt to learn English, and a Swahili alphabet picture book. "We are a white, Christian, British, Protestant nation," Borzelliere said, "Where does it say we have to focus on other cultures?"

Eye On Schools

Cheyenne Mountain D-12

Social studies textbook adoption was discussed at both the April 25 and May 31 regular school board meetings. At the April 25 meeting, the board approved most of the secondary school texts for purchase and placed the elementary texts on hold until the next regular board meeting. Controversial comments about multiculturalism prompted concern from a few parents. The Citizens Project participants from D-12 were notified of the growing controversy prior to the May 31 meeting.

Approximately 150 attended the May 31 meeting. Those who spoke in opposition to the texts cited text bias, inaccuracy, and encouragement to ignore family values; those who spoke in support of the texts cited text excellence and adherence to the district strategic plan, as well as trust in the abilities and intent of the teachers who selected the texts. The board then approved the primary school texts and the second choice 11th grade American History text for purchase, with Kleiner, Lewis, and McDermott voting for text purchase, and King and Maggio voting against. For more information, contact Julie Willis at 630-1466.

Lewis Palmer D-38

Our update about Lewis-Palmer from the last *Freedom Watch* included two references to material contained in the high school paper, *The Ranger Review*. Follow-up information revealed that the paper was doing a balanced job handling controversial issues in past editions. *Freedom Watch* erred by not getting a fuller perspective of what had appeared in previous issues of the school paper.

CFV: Behind Closed Doors

[Continued from Page 1]

Necessity and Homosexuality; Judith Reisman, author of *Kinsey, Sex and Fraud* and Focus on the Family's John Eldredge, Director of Seminars and Research and architect of FOF's Community Impact Seminars. These and other speakers covered a broad range of issues, painting a disturbing picture of the years to come.

Extreme objectives, mainstream message

As some of the more frank commentary from the conference demonstrated, ideals held by the mainstream are often at odds with anti-gay legislation. It was necessary, therefore, to repackage their message in terms more acceptable to the broader public.

> **"I think the gay agenda, and I would not say this as frankly as I will now in other cultural context, I think the gay agenda has all the elements of that which is truly evil"**
>
> ***John Eldredge, Focus on the Family***

Citing figures which show a strong majority of the public supporting the values of individualism and autonomy, Focus on the Family's John Eldredge explained, "This is still a country that embraces the pioneering spirit. Radical individual autonomy is an American value."

While acknowledging individualism as a "traditional" value, Eldredge quickly explained that commitment to such a value has "tilted the field, if you will, in favor of the militant gay agenda."

Winning on this field means carefully controlling one's image. "To the extent we can control our public image, we must never appear to be bigoted or mean-spirited. And you noticed the qualification–to the extent we can control our public image. We must never appear to be attempting to rob anyone of their rights, of their constitutional rights," explained Eldredge.

> **"To the extent we can control our public image, we must never appear to be bigoted or mean-spirited, And you notice the qualification—to the extent we can control our public image."**
>
> ***John Eldredge, Focus on the Family***

Having underscored the importance of appearances, Eldredge later offered his unabridged view, remarking, "I think the gay agenda, and I would not say this as frankly as I will now in other cultural contexts, I think the gay agenda has all the elements of that which is truly evil. It is deceptive at every turn...it is destroying the souls and the lives of those who embrace it, and it has a corrosive effect on the society which endorses it, either explicitly or even implicitly."

Manipulating the data

Part of repackaging this "evil" view of homosexuality as a political message means selective use of data.

In a moment of striking candor, leading anti-gay researcher Paul Cameron pointedly denied the widely-circulated claim that gays are disproportionately wealthy, a claim used by the far right to characterize gays as unusually powerful.

Explains Cameron, "Most people who engage in homosexuality are of the lower strata. These are people who are waiters and busboys and bums and hobos and jailbirds and so forth." Trying to explain the apparent contradiction, Cameron argued that the figures showing gays earning large incomes referred to an elite few subscribing to *The Advocate*, a national gay news publication.

Ironically, Cameron's observation about gay income levels came less than an hour after anti-gay researcher Judith Reisman maintained that the number of gays reading *The Advocate* constituted "somewhere from 30 to 50 percent of the homosexual population." Reisman's research uses personal ads from the magazine to argue an alleged link between homosexuality and child molestation. Her need for a larger, representative sample–in this case–appeared to be at odds with Cameron's interest in a much smaller sample.

Although inconsistencies like these surfaced around general claims about gay culture, when it came to the engine driving this movement, discord vanished. Seemingly unquestioned was the assumption that an effective assault against the "militant homosexual agenda" required the engagement of religious institutions and closer adherence to a narrowly defined set of moral principles–a reality especially observable in discussions about dissenting Christians.

Attacking fellow Christians

Interestingly, gays and lesbians were not alone in being criticized. Unsupportive Christians were characterized as "extraordinarily damaging to our movement" by John Eldredge, who described the evangelical church as "a house divided."

Conference materials included correspondence from the Institute in Basic Life Principles, an Illinois-based ministry which filed a legal brief supporting Amendment 2 during the injunction hearing. The letter, signed by Kent Schmidt from the ministry's legal department, criticized prominent evangelical author Tony Campolo for adopting "the innocent sounding axiom 'love the sinner–hate the sin,'" which Schimdt described as "heresy." Further evidence of alleged "injury to the cause" was Campolo's call for the church to be a "support community" for Christians who are non-practicing homosexuals. Compolo's comments prompted Schmidt's request that this issue be addressed at the conference.

Additional criticism was directed at the clergy. National Legal Foundation counsel Robert Skolrood minced no words, saying, "Our pastors don't know anything and most of them are wimps." Skolrood went on to explain, "There's compassion on one hand and there's truth on the other and I think this is where pastors have a lot of problems."

Energizing and excluding

From the beginning, gay rights proponents have claimed that anti-gay measures like Amendment 2 are driven by individuals with a religiously inspired political agenda that is inherently at odds with basic notions of democracy and political inclusion.

Political success for anti-gay groups, therefore, required establishing credibility by use of the mantra "equal rights, not

special rights." As important as this claim was during the Amendment 2 campaign, taped sessions and conference documents make no reference to the concept of "equal rights, not special rights." The reason, as the presentations suggest, is that this movement is less about rights and more about a much broader objective.

Robert Skolrood, who heads the organization that worked with CFV to draft and defend Amendment 2, prefaced his legal talk by stating, "As you know, it's a spiritual battle." He explains, "Although we lead normal human lives, the battle we are fighting is on the spiritual level...The very weapons we use are not human but powerful in God's warfare for the destruction of the enemy's strongholds." He concludes his point, describing the war this way: "We fight to capture every thought until it acknowledges the authority of Christ."

Also revealing is the list of "Foundational Principles" from the printed materials which appear to summarize the conference.

> **"Most people who engage in homosexuality are of the lower strata. These are people who are waiters and busboys and bums and hobos and so forth."**
>
> ***Paul Cameron, Family Research Institute***

Objectives include getting elected officials to oppose gay-friendly legislation and public policy, eliminating government dollars and resources for problems which are "the result of improper behavior brought on by their lifestyle (ex. AIDS)," and stressing family values so that "homosexuality would be regarded as a sad pathology by implication." In marked contrast to these principles, however, is the third objective, which reads simply "Spiritual revival."

This item may have been inspired by Ron Ray, an active and vociferous critic of gays serving in the military. His presentation included several minutes of religiously charged rhetoric, which included:

"We're going to have to remember His standard... And then we can have repentance, because the problem is the church...Once we have repentance, we can have revival... Sodomy, Sodom and Gomorrah, means the end or termination point....When you accept it in the law order, they have rendered Thy word void. Now the Lord will have to move."

Ron Ray and Bob Skolrood were not alone in drawing on this theme. John Eldredge noted that Focus on the Family president James Dobson sees the issue of homosexuality as "one of the key issues of our age" and outlined the work that Focus is doing to "raise the consciousness of the vast majority of Christians in the country who are woefully ignorant on these issues." Oberving that the church is "slowly waking up," Eldredge promised that evangelical churches would turn "the great ship of evangelism back toward social engagement."

Looking ahead

Whether mentoring isolated anti-gay activists or kicking in 70% of the money needed to pass an Amendment 2-styled law in Cincinnati, CFV has become a leader in the growing assault on gay and lesbian rights. Now that role is a national role, and CFV appears to be taking it seriously.

> **"Their public claims become highly suspect when talk of 'equal rights not special rights' is replaced by calls for revival, repentance and warfare against 'evil' gays and dissenting Christians ."**

How does the "behind-closed-doors" talk of anti-gay groups match their public rhetoric? A prominent disparity concerns religion. Public claims, like CFV chairman Will Perkins' sworn testimony that "Amendment 2 is not a religious issue," become highly suspect when talk of "equal rights, not special rights" is replaced by calls for revival, repentance and warfare against "evil" gays and dissenting Christians.

At bottom, this kind of duplicity suggests a drive so passionate and uncompromising that basic respect for truth and the democratic process has been sacrificed for political expediency. If this conference is an indication of things to come, their biggest foe may well be an alerted public. **CP**

—Mike Shaver

Who Was There?

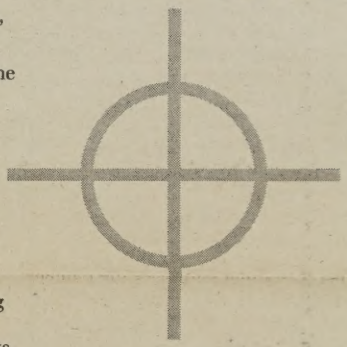
According to conference documents, CFV was host to some of the brightest stars in America's radical right constellation, as well as a scattering of more unique groups.

Attendees included *Concerned Women For America, Focus on the Family, National Legal Foundation,* Colorado chapters of the *Traditional Values Coalition* and *Christian Coalition.* Washington-based *Family Research Council,* formerly a division of Focus on the Family, was there as well as *The Conservative Caucus,* represented by Howard Phillips (who also heads the American Taxpayers Union). Mississippi-based *American Family Association* was represented through numerous state-level organizations, including representatives from Texas and Florida (two big states facing Amendment 2-like initiatives).

Of the national organizations, Colorado Springs' own *Focus on the Family* played the most prominent role, sending three representatives—two of whom were featured speakers.

Among the less well-known organizations were New Mexico's *Warriors Not Wimps For Jesus* and *Mothers Against Bad Government.* Texas sent the curiously named *Truth Before Consequences.* The *Chinese Family Alliance* came all the way from California and *The Kansas Education Watch* was joined by Kansas state representative Darlene Cornfield.

Broadening Their Scope



According to a list of "Primary Strategies" developed at the CFV conference, gays and lesbians are no longer alone in being targeted by anti-gay groups like CFV. Their "to-do" list includes developing a "central clearing house" for information about corporations, media personalities, clergy, political candidates and office holders. Plans also call for recruiting and promoting sympathetic candidates, an aggressive "war of words like heterophobia, Christian-phobia, Christian-bashing," as well as creating an *"anti-gay national PAC."*

A Primary Primer

[Continued from Page 1]

that one of the candidates in a contested race is someone you would not want to represent you, it may be worth your effort to temporarily change your party registration to express your preference.

Now more than ever, it's easy to vote in the primary by using early voting and absentee voting.

Early voting will be available starting on Monday, July 18th. Merely stop in at the County Election office on the first floor of Centennial Hall any time Monday through Friday during normal office hours and cast your ballot. That means you have three full weeks in which to squeeze in the time to vote.

It also means that as an unaffiliated voter, you can become a Republican or Democrat for a day and vote in the primary. It means as a Democrat or Republican, you could change your registration on Friday July 15th, vote on Monday the 18th, and return to the party of your choice on Tuesday the 19th.

Absentee voting is also available, and equally easy. Merely send a letter to the County Clerk requesting an absentee ballot. Give your name, address, date of birth, and party affiliation (Unaffiliated can declare by letter) and request a ballot. When you receive your ballot by mail, complete it and send it off. You no longer have to track down a notary public to certify your ballot. The only problem is you have to plan ahead a little bit for an absentee ballot to allow for the mailing time back and forth.

The following is a breakdown of contested races. In the Democratic Party, County Commission District 5 has two candidates, Lee Milner and Clarica Reese Armstead; for State Board of Education Richard Al Garcia and John Newcomb; for C.U. Regents at Large, Ray Munoz and Bill Selk. In the Republican Party, primary challenges exist for a the following: Governor (Bruce Benson, Mike Bird, or Dick Sargent), Lieutenant Governor (Ike Kelly and Bob Schaffer), Senate District 9 (Tom Ratterree and Charles Duke), House District 22 (Ken Gray and Marcy Morrison), County Commission District 1 (Duncan Bremer and Jim Drewry) and El Paso County Sheriff (John Anderson and Bill Barrett).

For more information on individual candidates, attend the Citizens Project candidate forums August 2nd and 4th (see Citizens Project Summer Events for more information), watch for the candidate surveys to be published in the *Gazette Telegraph* and *The Independent,* or fill in the coupon in this newsletter to receive a copy of our May-June *Freedom Watch* in which many legislative candidates are profiled. **CP**

Announcements

County Commissioner Candidates Speak

Clarica Reese Armstead and Lee Milner, Democratic candidates for County Commissioner District 5, will speak Tuesday, July 5th at 7 p.m. at Hillside Community Center. Sponsored by the El Paso County Democratic Club, presentations will emphasize their reasons for seeking office and intentions if elected. For more information, call 473-8713.

Gay Pride in Colorado Springs

Gay organizations in Colorado Springs are planning a community-wide parade to show their pride. The parade is Sunday, July 17 and marches at 12 p.m. Participants should start forming along Cache La Poudre between Tejon and Cascade. Special guests this year include Rev. Mel White, author of *Stranger at the Gate* and Jose Zuniga, Soldier of the Year (who serves as this years' Grand Marshal). Other events include a film festival and family picnic. Speaking out for gay equality can be tough in this town! Let's all get out there to show support for the gay community. For more information, call Ground Zero at 635-6086 or the Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Center at 471-4429.

Program Offers Unique Opportunity

Project Redirect, a program designed to target and "redirect" troubled youth into safe, productive lives, needs your help. In order to connect targeted youth with needed resources and role models, Project Redirect is looking for individuals who can help serve as mentors. By contributing your time, special products or even money, you could add something to the lives of young people who really need it. Project Redirect is a program being sponsored by El Paso County Social Services, the Health Department, School District 11, Pikes Peak Mental Health Center, and Goodwill Industries. For more information, contact Kent Miller at 444-5405.

Citizens Project

P.O. Box 2085,
Colorado Springs,
Colorado 80901
Phone: (719) 520-9899
Fax: (719) 520-0118

Editors
Mike Shaver & Doug Triggs

Board of Directors

Amy Divine, Chair
Peg Bacon
Pastor Jesse Brown, Jr.
Bruce Coriell
Bruce Loeffler
Dave Porter
Doug Triggs
Greg Walta
Altresa Williams

Yes, I would like to help support Citizens Project. Enclosed is my contribution of:

❑ $15 ❑ $30 ❑ $50 ❑ $100 ❑ Other

Contributors of $15 or more will receive future issues of *Freedom Watch* and candidate surveys by mail, and will also receive special notices about Citizens Project activities.

❑ **Yes!** I want more information about how to participate in Dialogue Dinners.

❑ Please send the following free items:

○ "Celebrate Diversity" bumper sticker
○ May/June *Freedom Watch*

Name_____

Address_____
Street

_____
City State Zip

Phone (____) _____ – (____) _____ –
Home Work

❑ Enclosed is my contibution for $____ for the items marked above.
❑ Please charge my: ○ MasterCard ○ Visa

Card Number: _____

Signature: _____ Exp. Date: __/__

Mail to: Citizens Project, Box 2085, Colorado Springs, CO 80901. N34
Thank you for your support. Please note contributions ARE tax deductible.

Inside CP

Seeking Executive Director

Citizens Project will sadly (tragically) be losing Mike Shaver this fall when he ventures into the big bad world of graduate school. We are currently seeking applicants for the full-time Executive Director position that is being created. Responsibilities include: fundraising, organizational management, media relations, and research coordination. Send resumes to CP: P.O. Box 2085, CSC, 80901.

Speaking of Fundraising...

We are planning to trade our mailing list with other non-profits as part of our ever-zealous fundraising efforts. If you are on our mailing list and do not want your name released to other organizations, please return the response card you will be receiving in next week's mailing, or call the office at 520-9899 and let us know.

Your Donations are Tax-Deductible!

Citizens Project has now officially received our non-profit, tax-deductible IRS status. Donations received in 1994 and onward will now be tax-deductible. This will make it easier for us to receive grants, and we hope it will make it a little easier for our supporters to make contributions.

Our Mission:

Citizens Project is a grassroots organization in the Pikes Peak region dedicated to upholding the traditional American values of pluralism, freedom of religion and separation of church and state.

Citizens Project Summer Events

July 5 7PM

Happy Birthday to Us!
You are cordially invited...

Citizens Project is toddling toward two! Come to our July First Tuesday (East Library and Information Center) to help us celebrate with cake, refreshments, CP update and a fine social time.

July 14 7PM

Creationism in the 90's

Dr. Eugenie Scott, Director of the National Center for Science Education in Berkeley, CA and a preeminent champion of evolution education, will be speaking on **"Rejecting Darwin: Creationism in the 90's,"** at All Souls Unitarian Church. Dr. Scott is a national leader in defending evolution education from challenges from supporters of creationism, and promises to bring her wit and wisdom to Colorado Springs.

August 2 7PM

Primary Candidate Forums

Primaries will be here August 9th, and Citizens Project will be holding candidate forums so that you can meet candidates in the contested primaries. You will have the opportunity to meet candidates for the state legislature on Tuesday, August 2nd, 7pm, East Library and Information Center. Invited guests include Marcy Morrison and Ken Gray (Rep)(House District 22), and Tom Ratteree and Charles Duke (Rep)(Senate District 9). On Thursday, August 4th, 7pm, East Library and Information Center, we will bring you contested primary candidates for county commission and for sheriff. Invited guests include: Duncan Bremer and Jim Drewry (Rep)(County Commission District 1), Lee Milner and Clarica Reese Armstead (Dem)(County Commission District 5), John Anderson and Bill Barrett (Rep)(County Sheriff). Candidates will be interviewed by representatives of the local press.

August 14 7PM

The 80906 Neighborhood Group meets

The next meeting of the 80906 neighborhood group will be held at 5:00 p.m. on August 14, 1994, at a location to be announced. Topics of discussion will include recent and upcoming school issues. Contact Julie Willis, 630-1466, for further information.

Freedom Watch Sponsors

This *Freedom Watch* was made possible with assistance from the following sponsors – If you would like to help sponsor the publication of *Freedom Watch*, please contact Douglas Triggs at (719) 634-2836.

Abrams Jewelry Design
Michael Duncan, Attorney
Ellen Levy, Psychotherapist
Manitou Bakery & Cafe
Poor Richard's Restaurant
Sharon's Frame Shop & Gallery
Douglas Triggs, Attorney
Greg Walta, Attorney

Freedom Watch is a bimonthly publication of Citizens Project.
Subscription available for a $15 suggested donation.

© 1994. Citizens Project. All rights reserved.